

City of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2005

The City of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee met on Thursday, March 10, 2005 in the Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland.

Members Present: Greg Castano, Michael Goodno, Katherine Kelly, Steve Moody, Suzanna Banwell, Susan Solarz, Laurie Kelly, Larry Rubin, Sanjay Grover

Members Absent: Robert Patten

Staff Present: Ilona Blanchard, Associate Planner

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:41.

2. Approval of Minutes: vote on reading, vote on adoption

The minutes were adopted unanimously with amendments.

3. Brief Announcements / Updates

The presentation to Council of the SRC's FY06 recommended transportation budget priorities was moved on the Council agenda to May 2nd.

Discussion of Yahoo list serve – only one member not on, all members are encouraged to join in order to maintain an internal record of e-mail communications for the Committee and staff reference. Question to staff – can the files be ordered chronologically instead of alphabetically on the server? Suzanna B. brought up the question of forwarding – after some discussion, the concern being that items may be inadvertently forwarded. A motion was made to forward only with written explicit permission to forward such as “feel free to forward”, with the onus on the person granting permission to ensure that it is a clean e-mail. The motion passed with Steve M., Suzanna B., Larry R. Katherine K, Susan S., Mike G., Sanjay G. and Laurie K. in favor, and Greg C. against.

HB 137 died in the State this year.

HB 443 on speeding is on Erlich's desk awaiting a signature. Steve will check status of bill (what was amended) with Franchot re: bill.

4. Action Items

Steve recapped the actions taken at the last full SRC meeting (see last months minutes) and what had occurred since: staff entered the results of the last meeting into a spreadsheet and tallied a combined score (value of all checked criteria) for each item on the list. Staff then created several other sheets – one with all items in each category sorted by score, one in which all items were sorted by total score, one in which each action type was sorted by score. The subcommittee (Steve, Greg, Katherine, Sanjay, Suzanna, with staff support) then looked at all items with a value below 12, decided if there were any which should remain on the priority list. Then the Committee looked at all items by action type and developed the recommendations, combining similar actions. All items in the other, and low priority lists were reviewed for items that should be included in the recommendation. The subcommittee then drafted the recommendation at the next subcommittee meeting and offered it to the committee for review. It has broad ideas and mentions specific places.

Discussion:

Susan and Greg would like the presenters to have examples ready to discuss for each priority.

Suzanna – thinks that the Philadelphia Ave/Community Center needs to be called out as a major item. Greg – thinks that it fits into existing recommendation 1. Katherine concurred with Greg, e.g. New Hampshire also has a list of ongoing serious ped issues. Larry – Philadelphia has issues tied to the Community Center, the Council has made a promise to remedy these. Steve - This shouldn't appear as a project that only affects Ward 1. Larry – with the completion of the building the Council should resolve these issues. Ilona (staff) can you add the Community Center to # 1? Larry – no (Brief discussion of the definition of multimodal w/Katherine). Katherine – this was discussed at the subcommittee level where it was seen as fitting into 1. Greg – echoed Katherine. Steve – can we add a line to # 1 that emphasized community center? Suzanna – we need to have priority list reflect the project better. This shouldn't be a sub function of the committee. It should be melded with the priority list. There should be another two sentences or so that discuss the area around the community center – give it a line or two here. It would be better as a # 6 (an additional item number).

Sanjay – How much of a budget can we expect for each project? What is the current budget for transportation? (Discussion of current City transportation spending)

Katherine – May we attach the project list to explain the transportation projects related to the recommended priorities?

Greg- how much information does the Council want? Suzanna – Joy said to be specific, more concrete. We can talk to the Councilmembers regarding projects. (Katherine – We have been tasked as a committee to provide long-term recommendations as well as specific recommended projects. Sanjay – I think this is too general, there are no hard recommendations associated with this list. Mike-This is a good framework. Larry – PSCAC wanted a committee that would say to the Council that because of X configuration of the roadway X people die. Katherine- I sat through the last two meetings of the prior Safe Roadways Committee, my understanding was that the group was very traffic oriented, and when the Council created the present SRC it was changed to have a greater multi-modal emphasis. Larry – Which means that we don't have to worry about what the SRC task was (the Council didn't in establishing the SRC).

Suzanna – I think that the Philadelphia Avenue issues should be a separate item number 6 on the priority list. Susan – I don't see why Philadelphia Avenue needs to be specifically referenced. New Hampshire and University are also very high priority.

(further discussion).

Larry – Motion to add a sentence “the SRC reaffirms its support of its February 1st, 2005 submission to Council titled Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee Suggestions for Philadelphia Avenue and Associated Streets between Carroll and Takoma Avenues”

(discussion regarding the location of the sentence & wording – Steve - sentence could only be supported if it emphasized the recommendations relationship to the Community Center)

Sentence revised to “Further, the SRC reaffirms its support of its February 1st, 2005 submission to Council regarding pedestrian and traffic issues in and around the Community Center titled Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee Suggestions for Philadelphia Avenue and Associated Streets between Carroll and Takoma Avenues”.

Motion made to add as one sentence to the priority list, seconded, passed 6-3

In favor: Laurie K, Sanjay G. Steve M., Suzanna B., Mike G., Larry R.
Opposed: Greg C., Katherine K., Susan S.

Katherine – Motion to create a list of projects with some more detail?

Motion seconded, and passed with all in favor.

Ilona (staff) – Requested motion to add Flower Avenue, unintentionally left out of the draft.
Motion made, seconded, and passed with all in favor.

Greg – may we approve intent, with the support of the Committee to allow a subcommittee to improve the language?

Motion passed, seconded, approved.

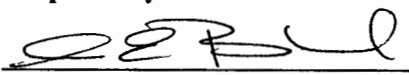
Susan – does this mean that the full committee will not get to approve the final version? I would have an issue with that.

(Discussion of subcommittee meetings, schedule, location, and attendees to set what list of projects would be attached to the list, minor wordsmithing, and work on presentation)

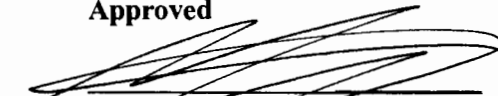
Greg – it looks like there will be enough people at the second subcommittee meeting to have a quorum, therefore it can be a full committee meeting.

5. Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted


Ilona Blanchard, Associate Planner

Approved


Greg Castano, Chair